

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2021 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS COUNCIL
CHAMBERS**

MAYOR: Louie A. Trujillo

COUNCILORS: Elaine Rodriquez
David Romero
David Ulibarri, Jr.
Michael Montoya

ALSO PRESENT: Leo Maestas, City Manager
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk
Scott Aaron, City Attorney
Kenneth Stumberg, Sergeant at Arms

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trujillo called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Trujillo took the opportunity to recognize the City's hardworking employees as public servants and stated they were doing a great job and to keep them in prayer as they keep the City moving.

Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. asked for prayers for the family of District Attorney and public servant Luis Juarez, who had recently passed away.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Montoya seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Elaine Rodriquez	Yes
Michael Montoya	Yes	David Romero	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

City Clerk Fresquez advised there was no public input at this time.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS/REPORTS AND RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

- Appointment of April Morrell to the Library Board

Councilor Montoya asked who had made the recommendation to appoint April Morrell and if she had met all the criteria required.

Mayor Trujillo advised that he did not know who April Morrell was.

Brief discussion and questions took place in regards to who had presented the names for the appointments and the need for more information and clarification regarding appointments for board members.

Councilor Romero made a motion to table the appointment of April Morrell until they received more clarification. Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call.

Councilor Montoya stated that whoever was in charge of board appointments should provide a briefing on the people they are appointing to ensure they meet all criteria and that every ward be represented.

City Clerk Fresquez advised she would make sure they would turn in all the information requested by Council.

Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Elaine Rodriquez	Yes	David Romero	Yes
Michael Montoya	Yes	David Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised that the motion carried.

- Appointment of Rosita Ellis to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Councilor Romero clarified that Rosita Ellis resided in Ward 4 and had been a part of the Recreation Center in the past. He made a motion to approve the appointment of Rosita Ellis to the Recreation Advisory Committee. Councilor Montoya seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	David Romero	Yes
Elaine Rodriquez	Yes	Michael Montoya	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Mayor Trujillo took the opportunity to invite everyone to the Drug Crisis Roundtable that would take place next Wednesday at 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the NMHU Student Union Building Theater. He added that several agencies invited were NM State Police, SM County Sheriff, LV City Police, the District Attorney, the SM Corrections Department Warden and several other agencies. He stated discussion would be on the drug crisis, how to tackle it in the community and encouraged everyone to attend.

- Recognition of Dr. Jesus Tafoya and Robert Gonzales (Gonzalo)

Mayor Trujillo advised that during the pandemic, Dr. Tafoya was always available and helpful with advice, information about the virus, mask mandates and also offered much more assistance to him and the Council when needed. He advised that he was available to the community and at the same time running his Family Practice. Mayor Trujillo thanked him by presenting him with a Bueno Vecino Recognition Certificate.

Dr. Tafoya stated that the City did a great job as a community in dealing with something we had never seen before, in making decisions only with expert opinion and keeping the community's safety in mind. His goal was always to come back to Las Vegas to serve not only as a doctor but to help the community as a whole. Dr. Tafoya advised we were not out of the woods yet in regards to the delta variant, although praised everyone's efforts regarding vaccinations, he thanked Leo Maestas for his efforts through a hard year. He encouraged everyone to get vaccinated and stated he was honored to serve this community.

Councilor Montoya expressed his appreciation to Dr. Tafoya for helping so many people in the community through the time of Covid.

COUNCILORS' REPORTS

Councilor Montoya thanked City Manager Maestas for getting City staff out to work on the weed issues and stated that Code Enforcement was scheduled to work on several areas in the community regarding overgrown weeds. He added that potholes and overgrown weeds can contribute to mosquito problems and thanked City Manager Maestas for his direction to staff on addressing many complaints coming in from the 311 system.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Mayor Trujillo advised that in the absence of Police Chief Crespin, Deputy Police Chief Kenneth Stumberg would be presenting the Police Chief's Report.

Deputy Police Chief Stumberg wanted to first of all thank all the Police Department Officers, dispatchers, San Miguel County and State Police for their help with a tragic incident over the weekend and for their duties in keeping the community safe when dealing with incidents of that nature.

Mr. Stumberg presented the Police Department Report for the month of June 2021 reporting on the following:

- I. Field Operations Division (patrol) dates from June 2021.
- II. Street Crimes Unit and Evidence section dates from June 2021.
- III. Training, New Hires and Recruiting from June 2021.

Discussion and questions took place regarding average calls taken by the Police Dispatch, number of vacant Police Officer positions and the need of recruitment for police officers. Also discussed were concerns of motorcycle noise control and speeding and installation of overweight trucks signage on Grand and Baca streets.

Councilor Romero stated that he hoped the disconnect between Human Resource Department and the Police Department had improved, he questioned a camera at the Plaza, on Bridge Street facing West bound traffic and also mentioned the draft Police Oversight Ordinance he had worked on.

Brief discussion took place regarding the review and changes that were needed to the PD Oversight Ordinance by City Attorney Aaron, Mayor Trujillo and the Police Advisory Committee.

Mayor Trujillo advised of drag racing issues on Grand Avenue that he had previously witnessed and suggested that the Police Department address the issue with more enforcement.

Lengthy discussion and questions took place in regards to the legislation of Cannabis and the reasons for the need of the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program (LEAD).

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director Jesus Baquera advised the Governing Body that there had not been any accruals done to the figures on the report and that the Finance Department needed to approve Payroll, Accounts Payable, Absentees and Revenues although the numbers would be changing.

Mayor Trujillo asked why the accruals were not reflected on the report.

Mr. Baquera advised that it would probably not be done until August.

Finance Director Jesus Baquera presented the Finance Report for the month ending June 30, 2021, reporting the General Fund revenue was at 122%, the expenditures were at 87% and had a surplus of 1.225 million. Enterprise Funds revenue came in at 102%, expenditures at 85% with the surplus at \$925,098.

Recreation Department revenue was at 90%, expenditures at 82% and with a surplus of \$44,512.00. Lodgers Tax revenue came in at 119%, expenditures at 46% and had a surplus of \$328,731.

Mayor Trujillo asked Mr. Baquera if the Recreation Department surplus total of \$44,512 should be considered a red flag?

Finance Director Baquera advised that it should not, due to it being a Covid year and that FY 22 would be very different.

Councilor Romero asked Mr. Baquera, regarding procurement, how he handled bids and proposals that had been submitted.

Mr. Baquera advised that currently bids were submitted to Purchasing Specialist, Helen Vigil and she reviewed all bids.

Councilor Romero stated that he was receiving calls about concerns regarding some bids that had been issued and where we did not go with the better price and asked if that had happened and was there justification?

Mr. Baquera advised that if you do not go with the lowest price, you have to submit a memo justifying it. He stated that he would check with Helen if there were any of those bids and if there was anything justifying that.

Discussion and questions took place regarding the persons qualified to review bids and some concerns of contractor favoritism.

City Manager Maestas stated that once there is concern on a bid, he is made aware of it and will review the bid to see if the proper procurement has taken place. He advised there had been one that they did not go with the lowest due to the other two not meeting the scope of work and that was the only one he had come in contact with.

Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. mentioned he had heard of favoritism of contractors and recommended to City Manager Maestas to have others review bids.

City Manager Maestas expressed that Purchasing Specialist Helen Vigil did a great job filtering those who did not meet state procurement, red flagging and bringing them to his attention and felt she was a great asset to the Office of Procurement.

Discussion and questions took place regarding the 3 million dollars the City would receive for Covid relief and how those monies would be spent.

City Manager Maestas informed that the monies could only be spent on the following 4 items: Utilities Assistance Program, Premium Pay for Employees that worked through Covid, Revenue Loss (\$387,000 cap) and Water, Sewer or Broadband Infrastructure.

Further lengthy discussion took place regarding the expenses for the funding provided by the federal funding for covid relief.

Councilor Romero asked Finance Director Baquera if he could send an accountability report to the Council showing all expenditures regarding Covid funding.

Finance Director Baquera advised that he would send that to the Council.

City Manager Maestas advised Councilor Romero that the Cares Act money that was given to the City as well as the County had to get approved by the state and their website before we could spend it.

Mayor Trujillo asked Finance Director Baquera if there was anything in the Finance Report that the Governing Body should be aware of.

Mr. Baquera advised that there were no concerns regarding the Finance Budget to report.

PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Talley with Spectra Solar gave a lengthy detailed presentation regarding opportunities for solar for the City of Las Vegas.

Lengthy discussion and questions took place regarding competitive services in the area, bankruptcy options for the purchaser and acquiring additional data from other municipalities to reference Spectra Solar services.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Request approval of Resolution No. 21-31 establishing the location of election day polling places for the Municipal Officer Election conducted in 2022.

City Clerk Casandra Fresquez advised that Resolution 21-31 is pursuant to the New Mexico Statutes Annotated 1978, Section 1-3-2 (2019) and Section 1-3-4 (2019). She stated that a Municipal Election was coming up on March 1, 2022 and the City is required by State statute to approve a resolution and send it to the New Mexico Secretary of State.

City Clerk Fresquez advised the resolution was standard with the same two convenience centers which were the two school gyms; West Las Vegas High School and Robertson High School and resolution needed to be turned in by June or July. She informed that in November she would bring another resolution that would list the positions held for that election.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 21-31 establishing the location of election day polling places for the Municipal Officer Election conducted in 2022. Councilor Rodriquez seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call.

Councilor Montoya asked if the Clerk's Office had already checked with the schools regarding the availability of the gyms due to having basketball tournaments around that time.

City Clerk Fresquez advised that the schools have always worked with the City and their election schedule. City Clerk Fresquez advised the City was unable to opt into the local election administered by the County this year due to the needed amendments to the City Charter and hopefully would be able to opt in on the next election in 2024 which would save the City some tax dollars.

Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Michael Montoya	Yes
Elaine Rodriquez	Yes	David Romero	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Romero asked if the Ward 3 position would be a 2 or 4 year term.

City Clerk Fresquez advised that it would be a 2 year term because Ward 3 was an appointment and as per the City Charter, the City would have to administer a Special Election concurrent with the next Regular Election, however both positions would be on the same ballot.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Romero made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters as permitted by Section 10-15-1 (H)(2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978, to discuss Police personnel. Councilor Rodriquez seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael Montoya	Yes	David Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes
David Romero	Yes	Elaine Rodriquez	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Romero made a motion to reconvene to Regular Session and informed that only discussion specified in the motion took place and no action was taken. Councilor Rodriquez seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael Montoya	Yes	David Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes
Elaine Rodriquez	Yes	David Romero	Yes


City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

ADJOURN

Councilor Romero made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Elaine Rodriquez	Yes	David Romero	Yes
Michael Montoya	Yes	David Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.



Mayor Louie A. Trujillo

ATTEST:



Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk